

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COGARD POLAD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

UNCLAS STATE 244228

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 13 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. FINNEY (NYT) QUOTES PENTAGON "FACT SHEET" THAT DOD CURRENTLY PROVIDES 22,000 BARRELS DAILY OF POL TO SVN AND 1500 TO CAMBODIA FOR MILITARY USE FROM WAR RESERVES THAT WILL BE REPLENISHED BY FUEL "COMMANDEERED" FROM DOMESTIC STOCKS. DOD CLAIMS BOTH COUNTRIES MEET CIVILIAN NEEDS BY OPEN-MARKET PURCHASES, ADDS THAT US NOT REPLACING STOCKS RECENTLY DESTROYED BY COMMUNIST ACTION NEAR SAIGON. IN PAST US BOUGHT INDOCHINA FUEL FROM OVERSEAS REFINERIES SUCH AS SINGAPORE THAT HAVE CUT OFF SUPPLIES AS RESULT OF ARAB EMBARGO, MAKING UNCLASSIFIED

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USE OF WAR RESERVES NECESSARY, ACCORDING TO PENTAGON, OR BOTH COUNTRIES WOULD FACE IMPAIRMENT OF MILITARY CAPABILITY. DOD SPOKESMAN BEECHER HOPES THAT BEFORE LONG SVN WILL BE ABLE TO PURCHASE OWN FUEL ON WORLD

MARKET (WITH US-PROVIDED CASH) SINCE IT IS NOT ON EMBARGO LIST. GETLER (WP) WRITES ON SAME TOPIC, ADDS THAT SEA NEEDS CONTRIBUTE TO US FUEL SCARCITY. (BASIC STORY ALSO IN PHINQ). IN LETTER TO WP EDITOR, READER POINTS OUT THAT FOR 20 YEARS WE TRAINED ARVN TO DEPEND ON TRUCKS, TANKS, AND PLANES, ASKS WHO WILL FUEL THEM IN FUTURE; ALSO QUESTIONS WHETHER THAI WILL LET USAF REMAIN, PERHAPS TO BOMB FELLOW ASIANS, AND HOW MUCH FUEL NEEDED TO SUPPORT IT.

2. SHARROCK (REUTER, CSM) REPORTS FROM SAIGON THAT, DUE TO IRANIAN EFFORT, ICCS IS BACK IN BUSINESS. ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE TO INVESTIGATE 100 VIOLATION ALLEGATIONS FROM BACKLOG, AND LETTERS SENT TO JMC IN EFFORT TO MOVE ON POW EXCHANGE STALLED SINCE JULY. SHARROCK POINTS OUT THAT ICCS NEW LOOK OF UNANIMITY AND SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE FOLLOWED ARRIVAL OF IRANIAN AND NEW POLISH AMBASSADORS, AND WHILE NOBODY IN SAIGON THINKS FIGHTING WILL STOP, DIPLOMATS EXPECT ICCS TO HAVE MORE DETERRENT EFFECT IN FUTURE (CSM).

3. GVN SAYS NHA BE FIRE BURSTS BACK TO LIFE, DESTROYS ANOTHER 300,000 GALLONS OF GASOLINE (PHINQ). INTELLIGENCE SOURCES SAY NVA PULLING OUT OF QUANG DUC TO CAMBODIA BUT NO SIGN WHETHER WITHDRAWAL IS LONG-RANGE OR ONLY PREPARATION FOR RENEWED ASSAULT (REUTER NYT, WP).

4. MCCOMBS (WP) FROM FRESHLY-DUG ANTI-TANK TRENCH NORTH OF SAIGON QUOTES OFFICIAL WHO LIKENS TRENCH TO MAGINOT LINE TO BOOST MORALE OF SAIGONESE WHO ARE INCREASINGLY FRIGHTENED BY RECENT LARGE-SCALE MILITARY ACTIVITY. WESTERN SOURCES CONFIRM REPORTS THAT NVA EMPHASIZING TANK-WARFARE PRACTICE AND HAS PERHAPS 500 TANKS IN SVN, WHILE ARVN RECEIVES INTENSIVE ANTI-TANK TRAINING. SOLDIERS BELIEVE TRENCH WILL HELP AGAINST TANKS AND SAY THAT NEW ANTI-TANK BUNKERS UNCLASSIFIED

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BEING BUILT CLOSER TO SAIGON.

5. PRG PRESIDENT PHAT IN WRITTEN INTERVIEW REPORTED BY UPI SAIGON SAYS US AND SVN HAVE WORKED SINCE C- F TO SABOTAGE PEACE DISCUSSIONS, DENIES THAT COMMUNISTS PLAN OFFENSIVE SOON, BUT WOULD NOT RULE OUT CONTINUING WARFARE (NYT).

6. AMB. BYRNE DELIVERS NOBEL PRIZE TO SECRETARY AT LONDON (UPI, NYT).

7. HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL SOURCES SAY LON NOL APPROVES NOMINATION OF LONG BORET TO SUCCEED IN TAM AS TAM

RESIGNS OVER INABILITY TO AFFECT GKR POLICY (AP, CHITRIB). FANK DRIVES TO REOPEN ROUTE 5 AT NEW CUT 12 MILES FROM PP (UPI, NYT; PHINQ).

8. WP FROM KOMPONG SPEU BRIDGE REPORTS BUDDHIST MONK AS LEADER OF 220 RECRUITS IN COMBAT WITH KR IN KOMPONG SPEU AREA SINCE 1970. AREA COMMANDED

RELATIVE OF SIHANOUK. MAY EM KNOWS HE IS POTENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT AND DENIES WAR ROLE SINCE GKR USES MONKS AS LIAISON WHEN MAKING INITIAL CONTACTS FOR NEGOTS WITH KR.

JAPAN

9. ALL PAPERS HIGHLIGHT HAK'S PILGRIM SOCIETY PROPOSAL THAT JAPAN, EUROPE, CANADA AND US ESTABLISH ENERGY ACTION GROUP "FOR COLLABORATION IN ALL AREAS" OF ENERGY PROBLEM (TEXT, NYT). KEATLEY (WSJ), OBSERVING THAT HAK OMITTED MENTION OF ANY FUEL SHARING ARRANGEMENT AMONG BIG CONSUMING NATIONS DURING TIMES OF EMERGENCY, POINTS OUT THAT JAPAN PREVIOUSLY "HAS BALKED AT SUGGESTED COOPERATIVE EFFORTS" UNLESS OIL PRODUCTION OF CONSUMING NATIONS ALSO WAS SHARED -- BUT US HAS NOT BEEN AGREEABLE TO SUCH APPROACH. WP'S MARILYN BERGER, WITH SECRETARY, SAYS WHILE HE MENTIONED US-SOVIET DETENTE IN HIS SPEECH, MOSCOW AND ITS ALLIES -- AND PRC -- "WERE UNCLASSIFIED

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TO BE CLEARLY EXCLUDED" FROM PROPOSED ENERGY ENTERPRISE.

10. JAPANESE TRANSPORT MINISTRY SAYS 26 JAPANESE TANKERS AND FREIGHTERS IN HOME AND OVERSEAS PORTS ARE UNABLE TO SAIL DUE TO BUNKER SHORTAGES (REUTER).

11. REUTER'S MACKENZIE, IN TOKYO, REPORTS GOJ MADE STRONG APPEAL THURSDAY THAT ISRAEL WITHDRAW BEHIND LINES HELD AT TIME UN OCT. 22 C-F RESOLUTIONS TOOK EFFECT, AS FIRST STEP TO TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORY. GAIMUSHO SPOKESMAN KURODA TOOK "UNUSUAL STEP" OF ISSUING STATEMENT TO FOREIGN PRESS BEFORE GIVING IT TO JAPANESE NEWSMEN, AND SAID HE DID NOT KNOW HOW APPEAL WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO ISRAEL. FAISAL RECEIVED MIKI DELEGATION WEDNESDAY; TALKS BEGUN (JOC).

12. CULLISON (JOC), IN TOKYO, FINDS FOREIGN INSURANCE FIRMS OPERATING THERE "ARE VERY WELL AWARE" OF DRAMATIC GROWTH PROSPECTS OF INSURANCE INDUSTRY; "BUT THEIR EXECUTIVES ALSO REALIZE THAT, ALTHOUGH THEY WILL ENJOY SIMILAR EXPANSION OPPORTUNITIES, THEIR FIRMS' LIMITED SHARES OF THE BUSINESS IS

NOT LIKELY TO EXPAND IN THE YEARS TO COME."

13. GAIMUSHO ANNOUNCES 3-YEAR PRC-JAPAN BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT INITIALED (AP, CHITRIB). WP SAYS PACT PROVIDES MFN TRADE BETWEEN THEM.

14. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN PEKING SAY PRC HAS DOUBLED BUNKERING FUEL PRICES FOLLOWING DRAMATIC RISE IN DEMAND FOR BUNKERING FACILITIES BY FOREIGN VESSELS AT CHINESE PORTS IN RECENT WEEKS (WP).

15. IN REMARKS BY TASS COMMENTATOR, PUBLISHED BY PRAVDA, SOVIET ACCUSED PRC OF TRYING POISON INTERNATIONAL ATMOSPHERE IN FE AND CLAIMED PRC AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN IS PLAYING LEADING ROLE IN CAMPAIGN. COMMENTATOR DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT STATEMENTS USSR TOOK PARTICULAR EXCEPTION TO, BUT MOSCOW OBSERVERS THINK REFERENCE PROBABLY WAS TO PEKING'S DECLARED UNCLASSIFIED

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SUPPORT FOR JAPAN IN GOJ DRIVE FOR RETURN OF 4 SOVIET-HELD ISLANDS (REUTER).

MALAYSIA

16. WP'S SHARKEY CITES INFORMED DIPLOMATIC SOURCES THAT GOM HAS FAILED TO WIN CONCESSIONS FROM PRC ON TWO SENSITIVE POINTS IN FOUR MONTHS OF DISCUSSIONS ABOUT ESTABLISHING RELATIONS: PUBLIC PRC DISOWNING OF COMMUNIST-LED INSURGENCY IN MALAYSIA AND DISASSOCIATING FROM ANY TIES WITH MALAYSIA'S LARGE ETHNIC CHINESE POPULATION. SHARKEY SAYS PEKING'S STAND ON THESE ISSUES IS BEING WATCHED CLOSELY BY GOM'S ASEAN PARTNERS, WHO ALSO ARE AFFLICTED WITH COMMUNIST-LED INSURRECTION MOVEMENTS AND HAVE SIZABLE CHINESE MINORITIES. PRC REPORTEDLY REFUSES, ON IDEOLOGICAL GROUNDS, TO END BACKING FOR INSURGENCY, AND SEEMS TO DRAW DISTINCTION BETWEEN THOSE CHINESE WHO HAVE OBTAINED MALAYSIAN CITIZENSHIP AND THOSE WHO HAVE NOT. MOST ANALYSTS BELIEVE THAT SUPPORT FOR INSURGENCIES IN ASEAN COUNTRIES IS LARGELY RHETORICAL BUT DOES INCLUDE RADIO FACILITIES IN PRC FOR SOME REBEL MOVEMENTS. MOST INFORMED OBSERVERS EXPECT EARLY 1974 AGREEMENT ON GOM-PRC RELATIONS, BUT WITHOUT HOPED-FOR CHINESE CONCESSIONS.

17. GOM ENVOY TO US KHIR JOHARI CALLS FOR STUDY TO DETERMINE HOW PRC HAS MANAGED TO AVOID DRUG PROBLEM AMONG ITS 800 MILLION PEOPLE (AP, PHINQ).

THAILAND

18. RTG FORNMINISTRY SAYS PRC HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE
TO SELL THAI 50,000 TONS OF DIESEL OIL TO EASE
CURRENT FUEL CRISIS (UPI, JOC).

PHILIPPINES

19. US PRIEST REV. GERLOCK, FACING SUBVERS

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